

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01571 071418Z

47

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 COME-00 INT-05 SSO-00

PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 NSF-02 OFA-01 IO-10 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-10 PM-03 DODE-00 /069 W

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O R 071337Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0204

NSF POLAR WASHDC

COMNAVSUPPFORANTARCTICA PORT HUENEMA CA

COMSURSARGRU ANTARCTICA

USCGC CLACIER

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 1571

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, XV, US,AR

SUBJ: ICEBREAKERS GLACIER AND SAN MARTIN

REF: BA 1538

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, EMBOFFS HAD OPPORTUNITY DURING SOCIAL EVENT EVENING MAR 6 TO DISCUSS SUBJECT SITUATION AT LENGTH WITH ARGENTINE AIR FORCE (AAF) COMMANDING GENERAL BRIG. GEN. HECTOR LUIS FAUTARIO.

2. WITHOUT REFERRING TO REQUEST FOR LETTER OR NOTE FROM EMBASSY (WHICH HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY A DIRECT SUBORDINATE OF FAUTARIO'S, SEE REFTEL) FAUTARIO STATED THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO CONDUCT AS MANY C-130 FLIGHTS AS NECESSARY TO REMOVE GLACIER PERSONNEL FROM MARAMBIO. HE ASKED ONLY THAT WE USE OUR HELICOPTERS TO TRANSPORT THEM TO MARAMBIO.

3. FAUTARIO CONFIRMED SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATIONS AT MARAMBIO DUE TO PRESENT LARGE COMPLEMENT OF ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BUENOS 01571 071418Z

100 AT THAT STATION INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION

ACTIVITIES. THUS IT STILL BEST TO TRY TO MINIMIZE LAYOVERS AT MARAMBIO, BUT FAUTARIO QUITE AMENABLE IF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE LAYOVERS TO DO BEST POSSIBLE TO HANDLE SITUATION. GLACIER PERSONNEL SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE MINIMAL THERE.

4. FAUTARIOS PLAN IS TO "AIR SHUTTLE" PERSONNEL TO RIO GALLEGOS, WHERE THEY WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO AAF FOCKER AIRCRAFT AND FLOWN TO BUENOS AIRES. HE SATED C-130 CAPACITY IS ABOUT 100.

5. FAUTARIO CONFIRMED INFO REFTEL THAT C-130 WILL DEPART HERE MARCH 8 OR 9 WITH VIEW TO FIRST RETURN FLIGHT FROM MARAMBIO MARCH 10, WEATHER PERMITTING. WE INDICATED THAT WE THOUGHT THIS SCHEDULE WAS SATISFACTORY FROM OUR STANDPOINT. HE INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD FLY TO RIO GALLEGOS TO BOARD FIRST C-130 TO FLY TO MARAMBIO. HE ALSO THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT ARGENTINE NAVY COMMANDING GENERAL, ADM. EMILIO EDUARDO MASSERA, WOULD FLY DOWN WITH HIM IN ORDER TO VIEW THE SITUATION FIRST HAND, ESPECIALLY THAT OF SAN MARTIN. WHILE CLEARLY ARGENTINE NAVY HAS YET TO MAKE DECISION TO BEGIN EVACUATING SAN MARTIN AS PREPARATION FOR WINTERING OVER, FAUTARIO EXPECTS THIS TO COME AND IS PLANNING TO CONTINUE HIS SHUTTLE SERVICE AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO REMOVE SAN MARTIN PERSONNEL AS WELL.

6. PRESS IS BEGINNING TO PICK UP STORY OF SHIPS BEING BESET. AP HAS OBTAINED INFORM FROM EMBASSY. BUENOS AIRES HERALD MARCH 7 CONTAINS STORY BASED ON REUTERS DISPATCH FROM CHRISTCHURCH. ARGENTINE NAVY HAS DOWNPLAYED EVENTS SO FAR, STATING THAT SAN MARTIN IN NO DANGER, HAS RECOVERED IN PAST FROM WORSE SITUATIONS, AND AT WORST WILL HAVE TO WINTER OVER IN ICE, FOR WHICH IT HAS AMPLE SUPPLIES. WE ANTICIPATE THAT AAF WILL GIVE MAXIMUM PUBLICITY TO THEIR RESCUE EFFORTS.

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 01571 071418Z

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EVACUATION PLANS CAN BE MODIFIED AS DESIRED BASED ON ABOVE INFO AND LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON SCENE.

8. EMBASSY WILL DO ITS BEST TO HANDLE GLACIER CONTINGENT IN BUENOS AIRES. ASSUME NSF POLAR THRU H&N AND PATAGONIA CO. WILL TAKE CARE OF NSF-SPONSORED SCIENTISTS AND THAT SUGGESTIONS FOR GLACIER CREW-

MEMBERS WILL BE ADDRESSED ATTENTION USDAO. PLEASE KEEP
EMBASSY INFORMED AS WELL.
HILL

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